

CLAIMS

1. An automatic cycle storage system comprising:

- a plurality of cycles (1), each of which carries a blocking device (8) and an electronic circuit (14);

5 · at least one cycle storage area (7) serving to receive the cycles (1) while they are not being used; and

- at least one control device (2; 22) adapted to authorize, selectively, cycles (1) to be borrowed from the storage area (7);

10 said system being characterized in that the blocking device (8) of each cycle is mounted to move between firstly a blocking position in which the blocking device blocks at least one moving member (1c) of the cycle so as to prevent the cycle from being used normally, and
15 secondly a releasing position in which the blocking device does not interfere with said moving member and makes it possible for the cycle to be used normally;

 in that the control device (2) is provided with a first short-range wireless communications interface (12)
20 having range limited substantially to the storage area;

 in that each cycle (1) is provided with second short-range wireless communications means (13) adapted to communicate with the first communications interface (12), said second communications interface being connected to
25 the electronic circuit (14) of the cycle;

 in that the cycle includes an electrical lock device (15) controlled by the electronic circuit (14) of the cycle and adapted to lock the blocking device (8) in the blocking position;

30 and in that the control device (2) is adapted to control the blocking device (8) of each cycle via the first communications interface (12) and via the second communications interface (13) of said cycle.

35 2. A system according to claim 1, in which each cycle (1) has a frame (1a) which carries handlebars (1d) connected via a fork (1c) to a front wheel (1e), and the blocking

device (8) comprises a bracket mounted to pivot on the frame (1a), said bracket being provided with a U-shaped recess and being adapted to come to engage over the fork (1c) of the cycle, thereby blocking said fork, when the blocking device (8) is in the blocking position.

3. A system according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the control device (2) includes interfaces (3, 4, 5, 6) adapted to enable a user to cause a cycle (1) stored in the storage area (7) to be unlocked.

4. A system according to any preceding claim, further comprising a server (11) adapted to communicate with a radiotelephone (23) belonging to a user, said server communicating with the control device (2) and being adapted to cause a cycle (1) in the storage area (7) to be unlocked by said control device as a function of information received by the radiotelephone of the user.

5. A system according to any preceding claim, in which each cycle (1) is provided with indicator means (16) adapted to indicate that the electrical lock device (15) is unlocked.

6. A system according to any preceding claim, in which the first and second communications interfaces (12, 13) are adapted to communicate with each other by radio.

7. A system according to claim 6, in which the first and second communications interfaces (12, 13) are adapted to communicate with each other using a short-range radio-communications protocol chosen from the Bluetooth, WiFi, and DECT protocols.